AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 9 and 11, such that the status of the claims is as follows:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously Amended) An air bearing slider comprising:

a transducer for communicating with a disc;

a composite slider body with a front portion composed of a first material and a rear portion composed of a second material different from the first material, the slider body having an air bearing surface defined on a disc opposing face of the slider body, where the air bearing surface comprises the front portion and the rear portion; and

a transducer basecoat portion attached to the rear portion of the slider body and containing the transducer.

3. (Previously Amended) The slider of claim 2, wherein an interface of the first material and the second material comprises a latitudinal plane with respect to the slider body substantially perpendicular to the air bearing surface.

4. (Original) The slider of claim 3 wherein a thickness of the first material is as much as about 15 times the thickness of the second material.

5. (Previously Amended) The slider of claim 3 wherein a thickness of the first material is as little as about half the thickness of the second material.

6. (Original) The slider of claim 3, wherein the transducer portion comprises the second material.

7. (Original) The slider of claim 6, where a lapping durability of the first material is greater than a lapping durability of the second material.

8. (Original) The slider of claim 6, where the first material is AlTiC and the second material is Al_2O_3.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a slider body ~~which supports a transducer so that the transducers is at a closest position with respect to a disc during flight, the method~~ comprising the steps of:

forming a composite wafer comprising a layer of a first material and a layer of a second material different from the first material~~, the composite wafer comprising a plurality of joined slider bodies~~;

forming on the layer of second material a transducer basecoat portion containing a ~~plurality of transducers,~~ transducer ~~wherein at least one transducer resides on each of the slider bodies~~; and

defining an air bearing surface on ~~each slider body~~ the composite wafer, the air bearing surface comprising a leading portion of the first material and a trailing portion of the second material.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, where a lapping durability of the first material is greater than a lapping durability of the second material.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein the composite wafer comprises a plurality of joined slider bodies, wherein the transducer basecoat portion contains a plurality of transducers, wherein at least one transducer resides on each of the slider bodies, the method further comprising severing the composite wafer into a plurality of bars.

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12. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising severing a bar into a plurality of individual sliders.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein a thickness of the first material is as much as about 15 times the thickness of the second material.

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14. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein a thickness of the first material is as little as about half the thickness of the second material.

15. (Previously added) The slider of claim 3 wherein the first material and the second material interface at a single latitudinal plane.

16. (Previously added) The slider of claim 3 wherein the latitudinal plane separates the front portion from the rear portion, wherein the front portion of the slider body is composed entirely of the first material and wherein the rear portion of the slider body is composed entirely of the second material.